1	2	3	4	5
1995-96	101412.33	2980.35	67715.49	2498.63
1996-97 (Upto Dec.'96)	44599.75	1911.95	19949.46	1024.11

(c) The Reserve Bank of India has reported that the number of pending applications with the nationalised banks in Kerala under PMRY as at the end of December, 1996 was 2268.

NTC Showrooms

100. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the employees working at the Showrooms of NTC (SM) and NTC (MN) Ltd. are paid different pay scales in different showrooms/mill gate shops;

(b) whether the said issue was discussed by the Board of Directors of National Textiles Corporation Ltd.;

(c) if so, the decision taken in this regard;

(d) whether the Chief Managing Director of NTC (SM) Ltd. has submitted a proposal to resolve the issue;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the decision taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Coal Policy

101. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether a new integrated coal policy is no the anvil; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the policy are as under :

(i) Degregulation of the prices and distribution of D Grade of non-coking coal, hard coke and soft coke with immediate effect.

(ii) Allowing Coal India Limited (CIL) and the Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL) to fix the prices of E, F, and G Grades of non-coking coal till 1st January, 2000, once every six months by updating the cost indices as per the escalation formula contained in the 1987 report of the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices.

(iii) Allowing CIL and SCCL to fix the prices of E, F and G Grades of non-coking coal in relation with the market prices and to distribute these grades of coal after 1st January, 2000.

(iv) Setting up of an independent body to monitor detailed and regional exploration of coal and lignite resources in the country.

(v) Allocation of new blocks on the basis of a competitive bidding process in which Indian companies including nationalised coal companies may participate.

Economic Cooperation with China

102. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any step to establish economic cooperation with China;

(b) if so, whether both the countries have identified new ways and areas to establish Indo-China economic ties, and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) Steps taken towards improving India-China economic relations include the setting up of a Joint Economic Group headed by Minister for External Affairs on the Indian side and the Minister for foreign Trade & Economic Co-operation on the Chinese side. The JEG, has been functioning since 1988 and the Sixth session of the JEG, is scheduled in early 1997.

Both countries extend to each other MFN status, a number of agreements have been signed between the two countries to facilitate bilateral trade and economic cooperation, these include an Agreement, on Avoidance of Double Taxation, Air Services Agreement, Shipping Agreement, an MoU on Banking Relations and several MoUs on functional cooperation covering different sectors like forestry, environment, coal, agriculture, Science & Technology etc. have been concluded.

A Joint Business Council has been established with FICCI and China Council for promotion of International Trade (CCPIT). The CII has also signed an MoU with All China Federation of Industry and Commerce and with CCPIT.

Border Trade is progressing through Pithoragarh in U.P. and Kinnaur in Himachal Pradesh.

Trade has been growing with China and in 1995-96 it was of the order of Rs. 1097 crores (Exports) and Rs. 2732 crores (Imports).

[Translation]

Remote Computer Look in Terminal Facility

103. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of such Banks in Maharashtra where 'Remote Computer Look-in Terminal facility' has been introduced;

(b) whether the employment opportunities in Banks are likely to be affected as a result of the said facility; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Representation From Association of Bank Employees

104. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :
SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received a representation from the All India Bank Employees' Association on matters pertaining to the banking industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Government have received a representation from All India Bank Employees' Association, making suggestions on the following matters :

(i) Restructuring of Banks.

(ii) Wilful default of bank loans.

(iii) Full disclosure of the list of all bank defaulters.

(iv) Bank's Balance-sheets should be absolutely transparent.

(v) Establishment of Independent Audit Commission.

(vi) Establishment of a Central Vigilance Commission.

(vii) Appointments of Bank's Chairmen & Executives thorugh a Banking Service Commission.

(viii) Standing Parliamentary Committee should be set up to screen the performance of Nationalised Banks.

(ix) Periodic consultation with the unions of employees and officers.

(x) Not to establish Local Area Private Banks.

(c) Effecting improvements in the banking industry is a continuous process in which suggestions received from different sources are kept in view in the light of all relevant factors.

Import & Smuggling of Cardamom

105. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether cardamom grown in Gautemala is coming legally/illegally to Indian market;

(b) if so, the total quantity of cardamom with its value which has come to India during each of the last two years;

(c) whether low priced Gautemala cardamom thus coming to India has crashed the domestic price;

(d) if so, the comparative price of Gautemala and Indian cardamom during the above period;

(e) whether Nepal is importing cardamom through Calcutta port;

(f) if so, the total quantity reached at Calcutta port during the above period;

(g) whether such cardamom is diverted to India at nil duty or low duty;

(h) if so, the total quantity of cardamom arrived in India from Nepal during the above period; and

(i) the steps taken by the Government to curb smuggling of cardamom from Nepal or in transit ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a), (g) and (h) Cardamom being a consumer item, its import is not permitted except against an import licence. However, growers of cardamom have represented to the Government that cardamom from Gautemala imported by Nepal is finding its way illegally into India.

(b) Details of imports of cardamom (small), during the last two years are given below :

Year	Qty. (MT)	Value (Rs. lakhs)
1994-95	20.00	32.82
1995-96	26.41	20.75

Source : DGCI&S Calcutta).

(c) No, Sir. The weighted average domestic price of small cardamom during the period Aug-Jan. (1996-97) was Rs. 398.46 per kg. as against Rs. 201.50 per kg. during the period Aug-July (1995-96).

(d) The price of Indian & Gautemalan small cardamom in the middle-east markets during the last 2 years was as under :

Year	Variety	Price range (US $ per kg.)
1994-95	Gagutemalan Small Cardamom (Bold green/Bold)	7.00-8.50
	Indian (Extra Bold/Bold)	16.81-20.30
1995-96	Guatemalan Small Cardamom (Bold green/Bold)	5.70-7.00
	Indian (Extra Bold/Bold)	9.00-10.50